

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 L-03 COME-00 SY-10 FBIE-00 PM-07 NSC-10

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 EB-11 JUSE-00 NIC-01 SS-15

RSR-01 /099 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6337

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 3233

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RO

SUBJ: ROMANIAN APPROACH TO EMBASSY ON ARREST CASE OF ALEXANDRU
PETRASCU

REFS: STATE 174109 AND 173967

1. I WAS CALLED TO THE MFA THIS AFTERNOON BY GHEORGHE BADESCU,
DIRECTOR OF THE CONSULAR DIRECTORATE. UPON ARRIVING I WAS ASKED
BY BADESCU WHETHER I KNEW OF THE TETRASCU ARREST CASE AND I REPLIED
THAT I HAD SEEN THE PRESS REPORTS (CONTAINED IN REFTELS)
BUT KNEW NOTHING FURTHER.

2. BADESCU THEN SAID THAT PETRASCU WAS IN US ON BASIS OF A
PROTOCOL BETWEEN ROMANIAN MIN OF LIGHT INDUSTRY AND THE AMERICAN
FIRM CONCERNED. PETRESCU, HE SAID, IS THERE ON LIGITIMATE BUSINESS
UNDER THAT PROTOCOL, AND HE REGRETTED THAT PRESS HAD SAID THAT
PETRESCU HAD SECRET DOCUMENTS WITH HIM AT TIME OF ARREST.
BADESCU UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ACCUSED IS FREE ON BAIL BUT MAY
NOT LEAVE THE COUNTRY. HE CATEGORICALLY REJECTED ACCUSATION
THAT PETRASCU WAS ENGAGED IN ANY IMPROPER OR ILLEGAL ACTIVITY.

3. BADESCU ASKED THAT, IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING, PETRESCU BE
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ALLOWED TO LEAVE US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (HE REPEATED THIS

REQUEST FOR EMPHASIS) AND SAID THAT HE DID NOT WANT THIS INCIDENT TO CLOUD GOOD US-ROMANIAN RELATIONS. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT ROMANIANS WOULD LIKE RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST BY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

4. I REPLIED THAT I WOULD TRANSMIT THE ROMANIAN REQUEST TO WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY, THAT I TOO REGRETTED THAT INCIDENTS OF THIS SORT DO HAPPEN FROM TIME TO TIME, AND THAT I WAS SURE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PREVENT INCIDENT FROM BEING BLOWN OUT OF PROPER PROPORTION OR CAUSING DAMAGE TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. I ALSO NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT PROPER JUDICIAL PROCESSES WOULD HAVE TO BE FOLLOWED IN US IF THERE WAS SUBSTANCE TO THE CHARGES, JUST AS SIMILAR PROCESSES HAD UNFOLDED IN ROMANIA IN SEVERAL CRIMINAL CASES INVOLVING AMERICAN CITIZENS OVER PAST TWO YEARS. I ALSO SAID THAT, IN VIEW OF LABOR DAY WEEKEND, IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE RESPONSE FROM WASHINGTON BEFORE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4.

5. THE MEETING WITH BADESCU TOOK PLACE IN A SERIOUS BUT FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE. NO MENTION WHATSOEVER WAS MADE OF FANEL MANGU OR OTHERS WHO HAVE FIGURED IN PRESS REPORTS OF CASE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BUCHAR03233
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730958/aaaabqst.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 174109 AND 173967
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Sep-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <29-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROMANIAN APPROACH TO EMBASSY ON ARREST CASE OF ALEXANDRU PETRASCU
TAGS: PFOR, RO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005